

THE SOURCE OF THE NILE.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

Solution of an Ancient Geographical Problem.

THE CRADLE OF THE SACRED WATERS.

THE LOCALE OF LAKE VICTORIA.

Opinions of the Ancients on the Source of the Stream.

THE HEROES OF THE FINAL ENTERPRISE.

"Peace Hath Its Triumphs No Less than War."

20. 20. 20.

The discovery of the source of the river Nile is now attracting great attention among the geographical and other learned societies of Europe. After numerous futile attempts to pierce through the mystery which has so long surrounded this mighty stream, and after no less than two thousand years of labor, enterprise, skill and experience, the crowning glory has been reserved for a few bold English explorers of the nineteenth century of the Christian era; and, as the distinguished geographer, Mr. Roderick Murchison, observes, "it is indeed an achievement of which all their countries may well be proud."

The Nile—called Nilus by the ancient Romans—is an extensive river of Eastern Africa, formed by the junction of the Shab-el-Ahad (White River) and the Bahr-el-Aziz (Blue River). The first of these streams, hitherto regarded as the true Nile, was generally supposed to rise on the western edge of the table land of Eastern Africa, about Latitude 2 deg. south, and to this they have given the name of Victoria. Having made this discovery, the little band of explorers, reduced from seventy to seventeen, have returned down the river. There is some uncertainty in regard to the position of the lake; but this will doubtless be rectified in time.

We can well conclude this cursory review without referring more particularly to the letter of Sir R. I. Murchison published by us yesterday. He first sets all doubts at rest concerning the fate of Mr. Petherick by stating that "he is alive and well," and that he had effected a junction with Captain Speke and Grant at Gondokoro, on the White Nile, on the 23d of February. He then quotes the following expressive and triumphant words from Captain Speke, addressed to himself: "I said I would do it, and I have done it." The Victoria Nyanza is the great reservoir of the sacred Bahr-el-Aziz (White Nile). "The discovery of Speke and Grant," adds this distinguished geographer, at the close of his letter, "by which the southernmost limit of the basin of the Nile is determined to be four degrees south of the equator, is the most remarkable geographical fact of our age, and is indeed an achievement of which all our countrymen may well be proud."

And so they well may be. To further elucidate the advantages of the discovery and to facilitate the inquiries of our readers, we print an excellent little map to-day embracing the principal points made in the published accounts, and tracing out the course which the distinguished navigators are supposed to have pursued. As the illustration of an unexpected and invaluable acquisition to geographical science, it will doubtless be fully appreciated.

A Revolutionary Relic.

Our readers may have noticed recently in the papers mention of the finding of an old manuscript in the town of Smyrna, Delaware. The following account of it from the *Smyrna (Delaware) Times* has been largely copied:

S. M. Fader, of this town, in tearing down the office apartment of his house to make some additions and improvements, came across a Revolutionary relic of considerable curiosity, being nothing less than a petition of the Continental Congress, asking for the supplies and funds of the family. The manuscript occupies fifteen pages of foolscap, and would cover the whole of the first page of my paper. It bears the date of "Newburg, N. Y., March 11, 1783," is beautifully written and strongly signed. It is the handwriting of George Washington. This is followed by another short article on the same subject, signed by Major General Horatio Gates, President of the meeting of officers.

This remarkable document came here in a mystery to Dr. Fader, who could not tell how it got there. The floor and ceiling, when he found it, were in perfect condition, and it was perfectly at a loss in tracing the means by which it came to this town and this house.

It has the appearance of being the original copy, and it is very likely to be a desirable acquisition to the history of the revolution.

The source of the Nile rises at the foot of a great mountain in the kingdom of Gezira, in Abyssinia, from two springs or eyes, to speak in the language of the country, the same word in Arabic signifying eye and fountain. These springs are thirty fathoms from one another, each as large as one of our wells or a coach wheel.

The Nile is increased by many rivulets which run into it, and, after passing through Ethiopia, in a very winding course, flows at last into Egypt.

As we do not possess giving a detailed history of this ancient and celebrated stream, we will summarily pass over the many curious things contained in the old authors concerning the inundations of the river—the catastrophes which arise in its course, the causes, times, consequences and height of inundations; its canals, staple gumps, fortifying qualities and monuments—and pass on to review the latest and most important fact which has been achieved by any adventurer who has ever sought to explore these waters.

It is now over two years since the expedition that has so successfully accomplished its designs set out from England with the determined resolution of solving the oldest and most interesting enigma known to civilization. Messrs. Speke and Grant, two scientific English gentlemen, in conjunction with Mr. Petherick, another English explorer, have been the courageous leaders of this heroic enterprise. The details which we have at present of their important investigations are necessarily brief, and in very few cases are we supplied with the dates of their various movements. These, however, will doubtless be given at length in due time. For the present, we only know that the expedition started from Zanzibar with seventy men. Of these only seven have remained at least accessible. Zanzibar, which is shown on our map, may be here state, is an island off the east coast of Africa, being the metropolis of the Sennar's possessions on that coast—a situation most injurious to the health of Europeans. This small band of explorers had to fight their way to reach White river, and unfortunately their number was still further decreased by sickness and detention. We, however, have marvellous reports from them of the sub-equatorial regions. These wonders will be fully appreciated when the chiefs of the expedition shall give the fruit of their researches to the world, among other valuable articles found in profusion immense quantities of ivory are mentioned.

According to the limited explanations as yet made by Dr. Speke, the Nile springs from Lake Victoria which he pretends to have circumnavigated and found to be very extensive. A despatch to the *Egyptian Spectator*, dated Khartum, March 29, 1863, summarizes the facts in these words:—"Speke and Grant, the intrepid English travellers, overcoming all obstacles, crossing under the line of the equator, reached Gondro-Koro, or Kondogoro, and thence are now approaching this place. It seems almost a dream. Their portolans undoubtedly contain the solution of the greatest problem that has puzzled us from the remotest antiquity." The Gondro-Koro here alluded to is a place some five degrees (less some minutes) from the equator, in the northern hemisphere, and about the same latitude south of the lake which he says is the "true" source of the Bahr-el-Aziz or White Nile. It must be understood that Capt. Speke entered Africa from the eastern coast some two years ago, and closed his examination by coming down the Nile.

This is in substance about all the intelligence which has reached us up to the present time. But we can scarcely overrate the value of such a geographical and scientific triumph. From the earliest days of the history of civilization the vexed question of the Nile's true source has perplexed mankind. Herodotus, called "the Father of History!" Diodes, Scylax, Seneca, Thibaut, Horace, Pliny, Strabo, Solinus and others have all had their different theories concerning the origin and virtues of this sacred stream. "With regard to the sources of the Nile," said Herodotus, over two thousand years ago, "I have found no one among those with whom I have conversed, whether Egyptians, Libyans or Greeks, who professed to have any knowledge." Horace speaks of its hidden origin, and old Thibaut even peremptorily asks—

"Si quis quanum te dico crede."

The Caledon mail steamship China, Captain Anderson, will leave this port to-morrow afternoon for Liverpool.

The mails for Europe will close in this city at half past twelve o'clock to-morrow afternoon.

The New York Herald—Edition for Europe—will be ready at eleven o'clock to-morrow morning. It will contain the latest accounts of the Siege and Progress and Successes of the Union Forces at Vicksburg, with a Map showing the Scene of Operations; Account of the Movements of Admiral Porter up the Yazoo river, resulting in the destruction of the Rebel Navy Yard at Yazoo City, and \$200,000 worth of Property. The Latest News from the Rebel States. Important intelligence from Mexico, and all important News of the past week.

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Anti-slavery in terra incognita!—

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Court Calendars—This Day.

Supreme Court—Tuesday, June 2, 1863.—1000, 1200, 1400, 1500, 1700, 1800, 1900, 2000, 2100, 2200, 2300, 2400, 2500, 2600, 2700, 2800, 2900, 3000, 3100, 3200, 3300, 3400, 3500, 3600, 3700, 3800, 3900, 4000, 4100, 4200, 4300, 4400, 4500, 4600, 4700, 4800, 4900, 5000, 5100, 5200, 5300, 5400, 5500, 5600, 5700, 5800, 5900, 6000, 6100, 6200, 6300, 6400, 6500, 6600, 6700, 6800, 6900, 7000, 7100, 7200, 7300, 7400, 7500, 7600, 7700, 7800, 7900, 8000, 8100, 8200, 8300, 8400, 8500, 8600, 8700, 8800, 8900, 9000, 9100, 9200, 9300, 9400, 9500, 9600, 9700, 9800, 9900, 10000, 10100, 10200, 10300, 10400, 10500, 10600, 10700, 10800, 10900, 11000, 11100, 11200, 11300, 11400, 11500, 11600, 11700, 11800, 11900, 12000, 12100, 12200, 12300, 12400, 12500, 12600, 12700, 12800, 12900, 13000, 13100, 13200, 13300, 13400, 13500, 13600, 13700, 13800, 13900, 14000, 14100, 14200, 14300, 14400, 14500, 14600, 14700, 14800, 14900, 15000, 15100, 15200, 15300, 15400, 15500, 15600, 15700, 15800, 15900, 16000, 16100, 16200, 16300, 16400, 16500, 16600, 16700, 16800, 16900, 17000, 17100, 17200, 17300, 17400, 17500, 17600, 17700, 17800, 17900, 18000, 18100, 18200, 18300, 18400, 18500, 18600, 18700, 18800, 18900, 19000, 19100, 19200, 19300, 19400, 19500, 19600, 19700, 19800, 19900, 20000, 20100, 20200, 20300, 20400, 20500, 20600, 20700, 20800, 20900, 21000, 21100, 21200, 21300, 21400, 21500, 21600, 21700, 21800, 21900, 22000, 22100, 22200, 22300, 22400, 22500, 22600, 22700, 22800, 22900, 23000, 23100, 23200, 23300, 23400, 23500, 23600, 23700, 23800, 23900, 24000, 24100, 24200, 24300, 24400, 24500, 24600, 24700, 24800, 24900, 25000, 25100, 25200, 25300, 25400, 25500, 25600, 25700, 25800, 25900, 26000, 26100, 26200, 26300, 26400, 26500, 26600, 26700, 26800, 26900, 27000, 27100, 27200, 27300, 27400, 27500, 27600, 27700, 27800, 27900, 28000, 28100, 28200, 28300, 28400, 28500, 28600, 28700, 28800, 28900, 29000, 29100, 29200, 29300, 29400, 29500, 29600, 29700, 29800, 29900, 30000, 30100, 30200, 30300, 30400, 30500, 30600, 30700, 30800, 30900, 31000, 31100, 31200, 31300, 31400, 31500, 31600, 31700, 31800, 31900, 32000, 32100, 32200, 32300, 32400, 32500, 32600, 32700, 32800, 32900, 33000, 33100, 33200, 33300, 33400, 33500, 33600, 33700, 33800, 33900, 34000, 34100, 34200, 34300, 34400, 34500, 34600, 34700, 34800, 34900, 35000, 35100, 35200, 35300, 35400, 35500, 35600, 35700, 35800, 35900, 36000, 36100, 36200, 36300, 36400, 36500, 36600, 36700, 36800, 36900, 37000, 37100, 37200, 37300, 37400, 37500, 37600, 37700, 37800, 37900, 38000, 38100, 38200, 38300, 38400, 38500, 38600, 38700, 38800, 38900, 39000, 39100, 39200, 39300, 39400, 39500, 39600, 39700, 39800, 39900, 40000, 40100, 40200, 40300, 40400, 40500, 40600, 40700, 40800, 40900, 41000, 41100, 41200, 41300, 41400, 41500, 41600, 41700, 41800, 41900, 42000, 42100, 42200, 42300, 42400, 42500, 42600, 42700, 42800, 42900, 43000, 43100, 43200, 43300, 43400, 43500, 43600, 43700, 43800, 43900, 44000, 44100, 44200, 44300, 44400, 44500, 44600, 44700, 44800, 44900, 45000, 45100, 45200, 45300, 45400, 45500, 45600, 45700, 45800, 45900, 46000, 46100, 46200, 46300, 46400, 46500, 46600, 46700, 46800, 46900, 47000, 47100, 47200, 47300, 47400, 47500, 47600, 47700, 47800, 47900, 48000, 48100, 48200, 48300, 48400, 48500, 48600, 48700, 48800, 48900, 49000, 49100, 49200, 49300, 49400, 49500, 49600, 49700, 49800, 49900, 50000, 50100, 50200, 50300, 50400, 50500, 50600, 50700, 50800, 50900, 51000, 51100, 51200, 51300, 51400, 51500, 51600, 51700, 51800, 51900, 52000, 52100, 52200, 52300, 52400, 52500, 52600, 52700, 52800, 52900, 53000, 53100, 53200, 53300, 53400, 53500, 53600, 53700, 53800, 53900, 54000, 54100, 54200, 54300, 54400, 54500, 54600, 54700, 54800, 54900, 55000, 55100, 55200, 55300, 55400, 55500, 55600, 55700, 55800, 55900, 56000, 56100, 56200, 56300, 56400, 56500, 56600, 56700, 56800, 56900, 57000, 57100, 57200, 57300, 57400, 57500, 57600, 57700, 57800, 57900, 58000, 58100, 58200, 58300, 58400, 58500, 58600, 58700, 58800, 58900, 59000, 59100, 59200, 59300, 59400, 59500, 59600, 59700, 59800, 59900, 60000, 60100, 60200, 60300, 60400, 60500, 60600, 60700, 60800, 60900, 61000, 61100, 61200, 61300, 61400, 61500, 61600, 61700, 61800, 61900, 62000, 62100, 62200, 62300, 6